

**Amendments in the specification:**

- 1) Please replace the paragraph starting on line 25 of page 7 with the following paragraph:

Figs. Fig. 5A&B are plan side views illustrating the coatings applied to the slab slice of Fig. 4.

- 2) Please replace the paragraph starting on line 3 of page 8 with the following paragraph:

Figs. Fig. 8A&B illustrate alternative embodiments of the method.